

Docket No 98n 1038
Docket Management Branch (HFA)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

3673 '99 MAY 19 P1:36
May 12, 1999

Dear Reader:

After having served 45 years in the Food Service Industry as Executive Chef and latterly as Food service Director serving more than 2,000,000 meals per year I believe my comments should weigh in.

I strongly believe that irradiated meats should be limited to such items as ground beef, other ground foods, cold cuts and chicken.

Reason: The handling of food products now are probably the worst it has ever been, but if you irradiate all meats the preparation problem may likely increase ten-fold, it will be motivated by the effort to increase profits.

The Food Service Industry is set up for failure from the beginning.

Reasons: Low paying jobs

No formal training

Promotion to higher paid positions

Still no formal or advanced training

This is certainly not true with all companies, but unfortunately history shows too many are short cutting the process.

The FDA needs a very strong extensive set of rules and regulations for the handling of all food products with stiff graduated fines for violations.

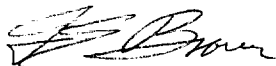
However, All irradiated foods should be labeled. The labeling will give the answers to all the debates.

I ran an extraordinary clean operation and never had one complaint or known of any food born illnesses in my operations. I had buying power and I was tough on all purveyors. I would think nothing of returning 2,000 pounds of meat if any part of it looked like it was adulterated in any way. When a job is being done according to specs there are no easy jobs in food and industry.

We already have too many products that are filled with too many chemicals to extend the shelf life for years.

Finally: Are these massive amounts of chemicals in our foods the secret ingredient(s) to obesity in the U.S.A. ???

Sincerely,



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